

REMARKS

Please cancel Claim 1 without prejudice. Claims 5-11 are amended herein. New Claims 38-41 are added. Claims 5-11, 25-35 and 38-41 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 25-35 are allowable, and that Claims 5 and 7-10 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim (Claim 1). Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of Claims 5, 7-10 and 25-35.

New Claims 38-41 are based on Claim 1 and, respectively, Claims 7-10, and therefore Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 38-41 are allowable.

102 Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Noerholm (U.S. Patent No. 4,331,947). The subject matter of Claim 1 has been included into Claim 5, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of its base claim (Claim 1). Hence, Claim 5 is in condition for allowance. Claim 6 is dependent on allowable Claim 5 and hence is also an allowable claim. Accordingly, a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is rendered moot at this time.

103 Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noerholm. Claim 11 is dependent on Claim 5, which as presented above is in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, Claim 11 is also allowable, and a discussion of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is rendered moot at this time.

Conclusions

Based on the remarks and amendments presented above, Applicants request allowance of the present Application. Applicants point out that no contested claims remain in the present Application.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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